

Foreign Language
Seminars
+ Lectures
1954-1956

CONFIDENTIAL

3 September 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: Training Liaison Officers (for distribution)

SUBJECT: Foreign Language Conversation Seminars

1. This memorandum announces foreign language conversation seminars for persons who possess some degree of conversational proficiency. These seminars will meet for two-hour sessions once a week beginning approximately 1 October. Class enrollment will be limited to a minimum of four students and a maximum of eight. The exact time and place of the meetings will be announced when all requests have been received and the minimum class enrollment has been filled. Applicants should fill out the "Application for Foreign Language Conversation Seminar," copies of which can be obtained from the Training Liaison Officers. The applicant will then be interviewed by the seminar leader to determine level of competence.

2. Seminars will be offered at varying levels of proficiency in the following languages:

Arabic	- Intermediate
Chinese	- Intermediate
Czech	- Intermediate
French	- Intermediate and Advanced
German	- Intermediate and Advanced
Italian	- Intermediate
Japanese	- Intermediate
Polish	- Intermediate and Advanced
Russian	- Intermediate (2 groups) and Advanced
Spanish	- Intermediate and Advanced

3. Efforts will be made to provide conversation seminars in languages not listed above when requested by a sufficient number of persons. Additional information may be obtained from the External and Language Training Division, extension 8009 or 8243.

HATTEN BAIRD
Director of Training

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Advanced Internal Classes

1. Advanced seminars are now in progress in German, Russian, French, and Arabic. These seminars are designed to meet the needs of persons who wish to maintain or reacquire native fluency.
2. Intermediate classes in Spanish, Arabic, and Russian are in progress. The intermediate classes are for people who are above the Phase II beginning level and cannot qualify for the seminar classes.
3. Applicants for the intermediate and seminar groups are accepted on the basis of an interview conducted in the language. These classes will have one two-hour session per week, requiring approximately five hours of outside preparation. Similar intermediate and seminar classes in other languages will be offered in the near future. For further information, please contact [REDACTED], ext. 8021.

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Testing

Candidates for language training are required to take Language Aptitude Tests. These tests require one complete day and can be given on any Tuesday. Since testing facilities are limited, appointments must be made by calling [REDACTED] (Assessment and Evaluation Staff, Office of Training, Room 106 R&S Bldg., ext. 8301) at least three weeks before the course begins.

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[REDACTED]
WENTWELL WARD
Director of Training

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Language Training Division
Office of Training

ADVANCED LANGUAGE SEMINARS

(This form may be submitted either as an expression of interest only, or as a definite application)

Name _____ Grade _____
Office _____ Division _____ Telephone _____
Language _____

Previous training and/or experience with the language (Please indicate nature and duration of experience).

Applicant's estimate of his degree of fluency in conversation.

Applicant's comments on particular aspects that he desires to develop.

Indication of any preference for substantive material.

Indicate whether this is an expression of interest or a definite application.

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4. Admissions to a group will be made on the basis of personal interviews with the group leader. Participants should possess sufficient conversational competence to allow participation in discussion. An effort will be made where demand warrants to provide groups for varying levels of competence. It is not required that an individual have an immediate need for language facility but that he desire to refresh and develop an existing competence.

5. Persons desiring to be included in any of these seminars may indicate their interest by forwarding a completed form similar to the attachment to Room 2129 "I" Building. Copies of the form for "Advanced Language Seminars" may be obtained by telephoning extension 8016. Persons indicating interest in languages other than those announced herein, may use this form to indicate this interest.

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MATTHEW BAIRD
Director of Training

Attachment

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14 June 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Training Liaison Officers (for distribution)

SUBJECT: Summer Language Training Program, Supplement No. 1

REFERENCE: (1) Memo to TLO's dtd 11 May 55, "Summer Language Training Program"
(2) TR Catalog of Courses No. 100-1, December 1954

1. The Foreign Service Institute, Department of State, has announced its program of courses beginning during the summer, as follows:

Intensive, full-time, 6-12 months, beginning 30 June

Portuguese
Spanish

Semi-intensive, 2 class hours daily, 10 weeks, beginning 11 July

Bulgarian	Italian
Burmese	Persian
Chinese	Polish
Czech	Portuguese
Dutch	Russian
French	Spanish
German	

Regular, 1 class hours daily, 6 months, beginning early July

Bulgarian	Persian
Chinese	Portuguese
French	Russian
German	Spanish

2. Agency personnel are admitted on a space-available basis and courses will be conducted for not less than three people. Applications should reach LHS/TR by 24 June.

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MATTHEW B. ILL
Director of Training

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Security Information

26 October 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Training Liaison Officers

SUBJECT: Seminars in Foreign Languages for Advanced Students

1. The Office of Training is preparing to meet the desire of employees for advanced conversational experience in foreign languages. Heretofore, this need has been met with only limited satisfaction by use of external facilities. Use of external facilities will be generally superseded by these language seminars. A group of such seminars is being planned for personnel with backgrounds in the following languages:

French	Spanish
German	Portuguese
Russian (General)	Chinese (Mandarin)
Russian (Scientific)	Japanese
Italian	

Similar seminars in other languages will be organized as interest is indicated.

2. Each seminar will be conducted by a bilingual senior professional employee of the Agency and will be conducted entirely in the foreign language of concern. Emphasis will be on free use of the language in discussion of material selected by the group leader according to the expressed interests of the participants.

3. Arrangements for frequency, duration, place and time of meetings will be made in consideration of the convenience of the group. It is desired that this activity provide an opportunity for development of advanced language proficiency without imposing a burden upon seminar leaders or participants. It is suggested that each seminar meet once or twice a week in two-hour sessions, preferably during the day. If necessary, however, efforts will be made to schedule meetings before or after office hours.

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IX. Language

1. How dialects hamper progress
2. How dialects contribute to variety and enrichment of a culture
3. Language teaching in (France, etc.)

X. Art and Music

1. Contemporary (French, etc.) art

XI. Science

1. Prospects for atomic power in (France, etc.)

XII. Health

XIII. Law

XIV. Foreign Relations

XV. Agriculture

XVI. Military

XVII. Travel

XVIII. Finance

XIX. Sport

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8. The party system in (Italy, etc.)
9. Particularism versus nationalism
10. Limits on the powers of the president, premier, etc.
11. Political heritage of (Italy, etc.)
12. (France, etc.) and the Geneva conference
13. The treaty making powers of president, premier, legislative body in (France, etc.)
14. (French, etc.) treaties of the 20th Century
15. The impact of Eastern political concepts on Western political developments since (1945, etc.)
16. Atom defense problems of (Europe, etc.)
17. Toward a United Europe
18. Decline of colonialism in (Africa, etc.)
19. Origins, structure and function of the French Union
20. (French, etc.) foreign policy and the United Nations
21. The Communist party in (Italy, etc.)
22. Changing relations between the U.S. and (Spain, etc.) since World War II

VI. Customs

1. Christmas traditions in (Spain, etc.)
2. Religious holidays in (Italy, etc.)
3. Legends and folklore in (France, etc.)

VII. Education

1. Universities in (France, etc.)
2. Problems of education in (Spain, etc.)
3. Secondary education in (Italy, etc.) as compared to the U.S.
4. Enrollment in elementary schools in (France, etc.)

VIII. Sociology

1. Juvenile delinquency in (Italy, etc.)
2. Public health problems in (France, etc.)
3. Medical facilities and cost in (Spain, etc.)
4. The problem of alcoholism in France
5. Crime and punishment in (Italy, etc.)
6. The system of social stratification in (Spain, etc.) -- hindrance to progress?
7. Welfare and social service work in (France, etc.)
8. Emigration and immigration in (Italy, etc.)
9. Population pressures in (Italy, etc.)

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15. French, etc. short story of the 19th, etc. Century
16. French, etc. prose of the 19th, etc. Century
17. French, etc. criticism, of the 19th, etc. Century
18. French, etc. letters of the 19th, etc. Century
19. The influence of French, etc. drama of the 19th Century on Germany, etc.
20. The influence of French, etc., theater of the 19th Century on Germany, etc.
21. The development of ideas in the literature of the _____ Century

III. Philosophy

1. Causality and substance
2. Symbols: vehicles of reason or emotion?
3. Historical relations between religion and intellectual freedom:
4. The ties between church and state in (Spain, etc.)
5. Vitality of religion in (Italy, etc.) and the prospects of its use as an anti-Communist weapon
6. The papacy: the church and the new forces in Western Europe and Italy
7. Socio-religious problems of (Italy, Spain, etc.)

IV. Labor

1. A contrast of trade unionism in the United States and (France, etc.)
2. Christian trade unionism since World War II
3. Europe's Unions today
4. The impact of unionism on (French, etc.) society
5. The history of the development of trade unions in (France, etc.)
6. Wage and hour legislation in (Italy, etc.)

V. Politics

1. Modern colonialism: institutions and policies
2. Demagogues: established arts and techniques
3. Historical survey of the use of balance of power as a guide to policy-making
4. What is a conservative? A liberal?
5. Problems of community, loyalty, power, social justice, tradition
6. Some impressions of the dynamics of totalitarian society
7. Clear and present danger doctrine and the Communist conspiracy

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Foreign Language Lecture Program Topic List

Below is a list of suggested topics for the Foreign Language Lecture Program. The sampling below is presented solely as an outline of possible subjects for discussion; any suggestions as to additions or modifications will be most welcome. It is anticipated that this list will be greatly expanded by the time the lecture program begins in October.

I. Economics

1. Appraisal of the Point Four program in (Italy, etc.)
2. Scarce capital and Soviet doctrine
3. Soviet use of trade as a weapon
4. (French, etc.) businessmen and their attitudes toward participation in the International Trade Fair Program
5. The economic challenge of (France, etc.) in the post-war era
6. Review of economic doctrines, 1870-1929, etc.
7. Karl Marx and his contribution to the critique of political economy
8. Problems involved in measuring the degree of monopoly and competition
9. "Welfare" economics and the economics of socialism
10. (French, Italian, etc.) conceptions of economic progress
11. Influence of the rates of interest on prices
12. Tariff policies between the (U.S., etc.) and (France, etc.)
13. Progress and problems in the economy of (Italy, etc.)
14. (France, etc.) and the Schuman Plan
15. Recent industrial development in (Italy, etc.)

II. Literature

1. Notes on the use of the eternal triangle in _____ literature
2. East and West in _____ literature
3. Best-selling _____ novels and their content characteristics
4. City novel as a literary genre
5. Democratic theme in _____ historical literature
6. Humanism: the classical past
7. Panorama of present-day _____ novelists
8. Crisis in (French, etc.) fiction, 1910-1930
9. Existentialism and French literature in Jean-Paul Sartre's novels
10. Present tempo in (French, etc.) judged through French, etc., literature
11. The South (Midi, Andalusia, etc.) in _____ literature
12. French, etc. drama of the 19th Century
13. French, etc. theater of the 19th Century
14. French, etc. novel of the 19th Century

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Persons interested in development of series in languages other than those mentioned above (para. G) may indicate their interest by calling extension 8009.

G. Information

Further information may be had at 2129 "I" Building or by calling extension 8009.

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FOREIGN LANGUAGE LECTURE PROGRAM

A. Purpose

This program is designed to provide an opportunity for interested persons to hear talks on a variety of topics about a foreign country, delivered in the native language of that country, and to discuss the activities and culture of an area in the language of that area.

B. Plan

Each series of lectures in a given language on the country where that language is spoken will consist of eight to fourteen lectures by substantive specialists with advanced to native fluency in the language. Each lecture will be followed by a discussion normally conducted in the foreign language. Participants will be permitted, however, to address questions or remarks in English if they prefer. Lectures will be scheduled for two hours once or twice a month.

C. Languages

Programs now are being planned in Russian, French, German, Italian, and Spanish. Efforts to develop programs for other languages and areas will be made whenever sufficient interest is indicated.

D. Topics

The variety and scope of topics will be determined by the panel of lecturers. Lecturers are free to select any topics that they believe will contribute to the professional, intellectual or cultural interests of Agency personnel. A list, intended to be suggestive, but not restrictive, is attached.

E. Participants and Participation

This activity is open to all interested persons. Persons may register either as participants or as auditors. Participants should have at least a moderate ability at comprehension and spoken fluency. They will be expected to attend all lectures, and will receive formal credit in their training record for participation. Auditors should have at least a moderate degree of comprehension. They will be free to attend only such lectures as they choose. They also may contribute to discussion. Some substantive familiarity with the area will be an advantage for all.

F. Registration

Persons desiring to attend as participants or auditors may register by submission to the Registrar, OTR, of Form No. 73 (1 Nov 54), "Request for Internal Training" (items 1, 2, 10, 19, 23 and 24 only).

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

20 September 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Training Liaison Officers (for distribution)

SUBJECT: Foreign Language Lecture Program

1. The Language and External Training School desires to continue and expand its program initiated last year of Foreign Language Lectures. Attached herewith is a general description of the program.

2. We shall appreciate receiving communication from individuals who may be interested in (a) lecturing, or (b) being personally informed when a program has been scheduled. We know of some persons interested in contributing, but are certain that there are others who will be pleased to contribute lectures. We shall be glad to hear from them. (It is suggested that communication be either direct or through Training Liaison Officers, according to the desire of individual components.) Information and inquiries may be addressed to the Language and External Training School, OTR, 2129 "I" Building, extension 8009.

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MATTHEW BAIRD
Director of Training

Attachment


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30 January 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Training Liaison Officers (for distribution)
SUBJECT: Russian Language Seminars
REFERENCE: Memo for TLO's from DIR, dated 3 January 1956,
subject: "Spring Language Training Program"

1. This memorandum announces two Russian Language Seminars to begin on 15 and 17 February 1956.
2. An intermediate group will meet each Friday from 0830 to 1030, and an advanced group will meet each Wednesday from 0930 to 1130.
3. Individuals interested in improving their fluency in spoken Russian are invited to apply for admission to one of these Seminars. Enrollment in each is limited to no more than eight persons. Each Seminar will be conducted by a native speaker. Discussions will include everyday topics and current affairs.
4. Information regarding applications may be obtained by calling Extension 2381.

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Acting Director of Training

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- 27 June French "Peoples, Places and Politics in Ruxlux," [REDACTED] 25X1A
CTR. The contemporary scene in Belgium, Holland, and
Luxembourg, with special reference to the importance of
the Ruxlux bloc to the U.S. national interest will
be covered.
- 11 July Russian "New Look at Leninism," [REDACTED] 25X1A
The
lecturer will consider the theory and practice of
Leninism in the light of the new concept of collective
leadership.
- 19 July Oriental This will be a lecture in Chinese or Japanese, and an
Language announcement will be made later. 25X1A

[REDACTED]
MATTHEW BIRD
Director of Training

C-C-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

14 May 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Training Liaison Officers (for distribution)

SUBJECT: Lecture Series in Foreign Languages

1. The Language and External Training School of the Office of Training announces a series of lectures in the major world languages, designed to present opportunities to hear the respective tongues as spoken by educated native or bilingual speakers. At the same time the content of the talks will provide an insight into foreign areas and peoples and will stress problems faced by intelligence personnel in dealing with them.

2. Each lecture will last approximately 50 minutes and will be followed by a question-and-answer period. Questions either in the respective language or English may be directed to the speaker.

3. The lectures will be on Wednesdays at 1530 hours in Room 1016, Recreation and Services Building, on the dates indicated below.

4. All interested Agency personnel are invited to attend, regardless of the level of their language competence.

23 May	<u>Italian</u>	"Guideposts in Dealing with Foreign Peoples--An Intelligence Officer's Viewpoint," [REDACTED] Although referring largely to Italy and Western Europe, the remarks will have considerable general application.	25X1A
6 June	<u>German</u> 25X1A	"Reaction of Germany's Common Sense to American Influence," [REDACTED] This will be based on experience in dealing with a large number of German students, specialists, and other non-diplomatic personnel.	
13 June	<u>Spanish</u> 25X1A	"Recent Developments on the Latin American Political Scene," [REDACTED] This will be a survey and analysis of the major trends and forces active in Latin American politics today, and their probable influence in the near future.	
20 June	<u>German</u>	"Political Parties in Germany," [REDACTED] The lecturer will discuss the party system and its importance in the political development of Germany since World War II.	25X1A

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